

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT

SUBJECT Rumanian Armed Forces: Chemical Warfare Training and Equipment

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Training

1. Chemical warfare training in units of the Rumanian Armed Forces is very inadequate and poorly presented. A recruit, during his three-month period of basic training, attends only two or three lectures on chemical warfare. The lectures deal only with tear, blister and mustard gases. The recruit also goes only once through a gas chamber, which is filled with tear gas.
2. After basic training, chemical warfare instruction is almost non-existent, but both officers and enlisted men are required to have their gas masks and chemically-treated anti-gas cloths with them at all times when in the field. A gas alert was held in 1951 for all troops participating in the Fall army maneuvers. When the alert was sounded, shouts of "gas" were repeated several times, and the soldiers put on their gas masks. The alert lasted only a few minutes, and no special training with the gas mask took place, other than the donning and removal of the masks.

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Gas Officer

4. A battalion is the lowest unit which has a gas officer. The gas officer is supposed to give chemical training to the men in his unit. However, because he has many other duties in the battalion, he often neglects his chemical training responsibilities.

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Equipment

5. Gas mask --- The gas mask is made of gray-colored rubber, with glass eyepieces. It is held in place over the face with four rubberized straps which fit over the back of the head. A rubber hose connects the chin cup of the facepiece with the canister. The gas mask and canister are kept in a cloth bag, to which a shoulder strap is attached. [redacted] All personnel are given gas masks during their basic training, and are required to keep them throughout their terms of service. Gas masks [redacted] were of pre-war manufacture. 25X1 25X1
6. Chemically treated cloth --- During basic training, each soldier is issued two square meters of a chemically-treated cloth, which is used for protection against mustard gases. Foot soldiers employ these cloths in crossing contaminated areas by laying them end to end in order to make a footpath. The cloth is folded into a small, compact, square shape and kept in a pouch, which is carried on the cartridge belt. It also is kept during the entire tour of duty.
7. Protective clothing --- Protective clothing is not issued to the troops, but is kept in storage at all times, except when needed. The protective suit is made of chemically-treated material and covers all of the body except the hands, feet, face and head. A hood with glass eyepieces, made of the same material, is worn over the gas mask. Gloves are made of rubber. The shoes have wooden soles and are made of the same material as the suit. They are tied over the bottom of each trouser leg with string. [redacted] 25X1 25X1
8. First Aid kit --- [redacted] issued a chemical kit for the treatment of gassed personnel. [redacted] Each unit gas officer is issued a supply of decontaminating agents, protective clothing and special medical supplies for the treatment of gassed personnel. These items are not to be taken from their packaging until required for use. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

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